Amendments to the Claims:

1. (Original) An isolated polynucleotide molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence encoding an MLK4 gene product from a human, wherein the MLK4 gene product comprises the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2.

2. (Original) The isolated polynucleotide sequence of claim 1 comprising the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:1.

3. (Original) An isolated polynucleotide molecule that is homologous to a polynucleotide molecule comprising the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:1.

4. (Original) An isolated polynucleotide molecule consisting of a nucleotide sequence that is a substantial portion of a polynucleotide molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence encoding an MLK4 gene product from a human, wherein the MLK4 gene product comprises the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2.

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5. (Currently Amended) The isolated polynucleotide molecule of claim 4, wherein the nucleotide sequence that is a substantial portion of a polynucleotide molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence encoding the MLK4 gene product comprises the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:1.

6-21. (Cancelled).

22. (Currently Amended) A recombinant vector comprising any one of the polynucleotide molecules of claims 1-~~21~~ 5.

23. (Original) A transformed host cell comprising the recombinant vector of claim 22.

24. (Cancelled).

25. (Currently Amended) A method of preparing a substantially purified or isolated polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2, ~~SEQ ID NO:4, SEQ ID NO:6, SEQ ID NO:8, SEQ ID NO:10, and SEQ IS NO:13,~~ comprising culturing host cells of claims 23 under conditions conductive to the expression of the polypeptide or peptide fragment, and recovering in substantially purified or isolated form the polypeptide or peptide fragment from the cell culture.

26-47. (Cancelled).